

**SPEECH GIVEN IN THE HONOR OF  
THE KING AND QUEEN OF SWEDEN  
October 24, 2006**

Your Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf,  
Your Majesty Queen Sylvia,  
Honourable Senators,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Majesties, we are truly honoured by your visit to the Senate of Canada. Your Majesty King Carl Gustaf, earlier this year Swedes celebrated your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. They paid tribute to your lifetime of dedication to them. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to you on this happy milestone. As they say in Umeå and Eskilstuna -- Grattis på födelsedagen.

During your visit with Canadian Senators, I hope you will not mistake us for the other Senators here in Ottawa. I am referring, of course, to the hockey players. As you know, the Team Captain of the Ottawa Senators, Daniel Alfredsson, is from Sweden. In fact, two other Canadian hockey teams have Swedish captains – Mats Sundin of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Markus Naslund of the Vancouver Canucks.

The love Swedes and Canadians have for the game of hockey is only one of the many things that our countries have in common. We share a similar outlook on the world. Our modern economies and our social welfare systems are comparable. And as northern countries, we work together closely in the Arctic Council.

Canada's ties with Sweden are helped by the fact that over 280,000 Canadians have Swedish ancestry. The first Swedish immigrants arrived in Canada over a century ago, and many of them settled on the western prairies. Through their hard work and perseverance, they helped build the Canada we know today.

In addition to these personal links, we are interested in each other's culture. Most Canadians are familiar with the films of Ingmar Bergman and the music of the group ABBA. Going the other way, Canadian artists such as Margaret Atwood, Diana Krall, and Robert Lepage have had great success in Sweden.

Our countries have growing commercial ties as well. Last year, two-way trade amounted to over \$2.5 billion. We also invest in each other's economy, and Canadians are familiar with many Swedish companies, such as Volvo, IKEA, and Ericsson. At the same time, many Canadian companies such as Bombardier, Zarlink, and Cascades have a presence in Sweden.

With such wide-ranging mutual interests, it is not surprising that Canada and Sweden enjoy trouble-free relations. Your Majesties, your visit here gives us the chance to reflect upon a relationship we usually take for granted.

In closing, on behalf of my colleagues please let me thank you, Sire and Ma'am, for taking the time to come and visit us. I wish you a productive visit, a safe journey home, and a long and happy reign.

Please join me in raising a toast to our guests, the King and Queen of Sweden –

**Skol**